

## **BBF LIST PROMOTES ZONDERVAN'S PROPAGANDA**

April 25, 1997 (David Cloud, Fundamental Baptist Information Service, P.O. Box 610368, Port Huron, MI 48061, 866-295-4143, fbns@wayoflife.org) -

World magazine (P.O. Box 2330, Asheville, NC 28802) published an article in the March 29, 1997, issue entitled "Femme Fatale: The Feminist Seduction of the Evangelical Church," exposing the NIV's agenda of producing different types of Bibles for various markets. As could be expected, the NIV publishers responded with angry notices on the Internet at the Zondervan web site, in which they denounced the editors of World magazine in very harsh terms and implied that the article was dishonest. We believe, though, that the article was balanced and fair and honest (though we would differ from World magazine's position on Bible versions and a number of other issues). The deception was not on the part of World magazine in exposing the NIV's agenda and connecting it with the larger issue of feminist influence in "evangelical" churches today; it was on the part of the NIV publishers in attempting to deny that they have an agenda other than strict faithfulness to the Word of God.

Let me ask this question: If the NIV publishers are committed solely and strictly to translating the Word of God faithfully, why did they change "brethren" to "brothers and sisters" in the British inclusive language edition? The Greek text does not say "brothers and sisters"; it says "brethren." Strict and accurate faithfulness to the Scriptures requires the translation of "brethren." Those who change this to "brothers and sisters" are changing the Word of God, and no amount of blustering on their part can change this fact. (We are ignoring, for the moment, the fact that the NIV is translated from a corrupt Greek text to begin with.) The NIV publishers claim that they are not promoting "unisex" with their inclusive language version. They boast that they do not change "our father" in reference to God to "our father and mother," as some more extreme inclusive language versions do. Likewise, they boast that they do not change "son of God" into "child of God." I ask, Is it more righteous to change God's Word a little than to change it a lot? Is it more righteous to change "brethren" to "brothers and sisters" than to change "son of God" to "child of God"? I do not think so. I do not think that man has the authority to change God's Word even a little. Of course I might be wrong. Perhaps the Lord is not very concerned about the details of His Word. Perhaps He will overlook these matters. I say this "tongue in cheek," of course. We believe Proverbs 30:5-6 means precisely what it says: "Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him. Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar."

The surprise is not that the commercial Bible publishers would try to defend themselves against charges that they are corrupting the Word of God. The surprise, rather, is to see fundamental Baptist pastors accepting Zondervan's propaganda and redistributing Zondervan's reply without a rejoinder.

On April 24, a news list operated by Baptist Bible Fellowship pastors distributed a letter from Zondervan Corporation alleging to answer charges that it is publishing gender-neutral editions of the New International Version of the Bible.

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ARTICLE DISTRIBUTED APRIL 24 ON THE BBF NEWS LIST --

Subj: Is the NIV gender-neutered?  
Date: 97-04-24 03:16:53 EDT  
From: brhamm@csn.net (Billy Hamm)  
Sender: owner-newslist@lists.csn.net  
To: Newslist@baptists.org

From: Otis Nixdorf <ONixdorf@AOL.COM

FYI, I questioned Zondervan and received this response.

(Editor's note: An article in World Magazine discussed the issue of the New International Version of the Bible as being gender-neutered. To verify information in the article, a Missouri pastor contacted the American publisher and received this response. We print it here for the information of our subscribers. You may draw your own conclusions.)

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Forwarded message:  
From: zpub@zph.com (zpub)  
To: ONixdorf@aol.com  
Date: 97-04-22 10:48:57 EDT

Otis Nixdorf, Pastor  
East Side Baptist Church  
Independence, MO

Just as Zondervan is the commercial publisher of the NIV in North America, Hodder & Stoughton (H&S) is the commercial publisher of the NIV in the United Kingdom. Several years ago H&S, responding to generally accepted English language usage in the UK, asked the CBT to create an edition of the NIV translation that is gender-accurate. CBT approached the request using its translation principle of adhering faithfully to the original texts. In 1995 H&S published this new NIV edition, with distribution limited to the UK. Zondervan does not publish this edition and by contractual law, this NIV gender-accurate edition cannot be imported into North America.

Our position on this issue is that we will not publish a Bible that uses feminine pronouns to describe deity; we will not publish a Bible that neuters the masculinity of Jesus; we will not publish a Bible that dissolves God's intended uniqueness of men and women; in short, we will not publish a Bible that is contrary to the original biblical texts in any way.

Thanks for your comments and support

zpub@zph.com (Zondervan Corporation)

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#### CONCLUDING COMMENTS BY DAVID CLOUD, EDITOR, O TIMOTHY MAGAZINE

April 24, 1997

Hello., Pastor Nixdorf:

Someone sent me a copy of the e-mail you posted which contained the letter from Zondervan. It is sad to see that you have published Zondervan's propaganda without any rejoinder from a Bible believer. I have carefully read the World magazine article in question ("Femme Fatale: The Feminist Seduction of the Evangelical Church," World, March 29, 1997) as well as all of the material which Zondervan has posted at its web site which supposedly answers the World article.

Zondervan's reply is a smokescreen which dodges the issue. No one has said that they have changed the terms of God to gender-neutral terms. That is not the issue. The issue is that they have changed the word of God to inclusive language style. God's Word says "brethren," but they have changed it to "brothers and sisters," etc. This might be "gender-accurate" but it is not Bible accurate. Zondervan can huff and puff all it wants about its alleged love for the Word of God. The bottom line is money, and those who have any spiritual discernment have their number on that. They have admitted that they allowed the publication of the inclusive language NIV in the U.K. because the publisher there was feeling pressure from the increased sale of the inclusive language NRSV.

We have published an article which deals the various editions of the NIV which have been published since 1995. It is titled "An NIV for Every Person" and can be viewed at the Fundamental Baptist News Service web site -- < <http://www2.bitstream.net/~thebible/FBNS1.html> >